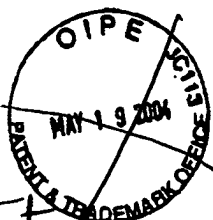


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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3731**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** Minoru Tsuruta

**Examiner:** Charles H. Sam

**Serial No:** 10/084,557

**Art Unit:** 3731

**Filed:** February 26, 2002

**Docket:** 15226

**For:** MEDICAL RETRIEVAL  
INSTRUMENT

**Dated:** May 17, 2004

**Conf. No.:** 7971

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*ANE. 1*

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

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Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the following amendments and remarks:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 17, 2004.

Dated: May 17, 2004

*Thomas Spinelli*  
Thomas Spinelli